

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

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During fiscal year 2001-2002, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy worked together with private donors and at the local, state, and federal level to protect and preserve nearly 4,000 acres of open space throughout Southern California. Additionally, the Conservancy authorized grants for comprehensive environmental education programs throughout our parklands, and embarked on improvement projects to make these parks more accessible and enjoyable.

Major accomplishments of the Conservancy during fiscal year 2001-2002 include:

- Acquisition of 1,255-acre Tuna Canyon Park, the largest remaining piece of coastal area open space in Southern California.
- Acquisition of the 480-acre East Canyon dedication in the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor.
- Acquisition of 442-acre Whitney Canyon in Santa Clarita, a regionally significant entrance to the Angeles National Forest.
- Acquisition of Rocky Pointe in Simi Valley, an unusual 12-acre property with rock outcrops, nesting white-throated swifts, a vernal pool, and rare plants.
- Acquisition of the Avatar and 21000 Mulholland properties—386 acres of pristine open space off historic dirt Mulholland Drive, which will serve as a major portal into Topanga State Park from the San Fernando Valley.
- Acquisition of Lechuza Beach, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's first beach property with easy public access.
- Acquisition of the Zuniga Pond property, which includes a one-acre pond with the highest concentration of Western pond turtles in the Santa Monica Mountains.
- Participation in important regional planning efforts, including those involving the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.

Citizen effort, and the dedication of local lawmakers were at the forefront of these acquisitions—some of which took as long as ten years to attain. In this era of increasingly complex property transactions, the Conservancy is proud of its ability to bring together community members and every level of government to preserve our treasured open space areas. With funding from Propositions 12 and 13, the greening of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries is finally becoming a reality, bringing nature back into the urban core of Los Angeles. We look forward to working together to preserve and protect our open spaces and to making the parkland of this great metropolitan area its greatest asset.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, sweeping strokes that form the name 'Michael Berger'.

**THE HONORABLE MICHAEL BERGER**

Chairperson  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy